

**MELANAGROMYZA DETTMERI HERING (DIP.: AGROMYZIDAE)
NEW TO IRELAND AND A SECOND IRISH RECORD OF ITS
PARASITOID DIGLYPHOSEMA CONJUNGENS KIEFFER
(HYM.: EUCOILIDAE)**

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AS PART OF A study of the Irish cynipid fauna, the author has been collecting the stems of knapweed *Centaurea* in various parts of Ireland. Several species have been found living in the plant in Britain (Eady & Quinlan, 1963) but none of these have yet been discovered in Ireland. On 8.iv.1999, stems were obtained on the sand dunes at Woodstown strand, Co. Waterford (Irish grid reference S6905). After the winter storms, only a few were found in this very exposed locality and they were not identified to species. The material was placed in clear plastic bags and stored, hanging up, in an outdoor covered passage. This method has been very successful for rearing cynipids (e.g. O'Connor *et al.*, 1993; O'Connor & Bond, 1996).

On 18.v.1999, a cynipoid emerged but on close examination, it turned out to be a male eucoilid rather than a cynipid. The specimen was identified as *Diglyphosema conjungens* Kieffer using Quinlan (1978). This species is known from several localities in England and also from Dublin in Ireland. No further information is given by Quinlan (*op. cit.*) concerning the Irish record. *D. conjungens* is known to be a parasitoid of several species of *Melanagromyza* (Agromyzidae) whose larvae are internal stem-borers. On 25.v.1999, a small black fly emerged in the same bag as *D. conjungens*. The specimen was determined as a female *Melanagromyza dettmeri* Hering using Spencer (1972).

M. dettmeri is new to Ireland. The genus *Melanagromyza* is poorly known on the island. Although sixteen species have been recorded in Britain, only *M. aeneoventris* (Fallén) has been previously reported from Ireland (Spencer, 1972; Chandler, 1998). This record is based on a single female collected by A.H. Haliday and preserved in the National Museum of Ireland. It was identified by Griffiths (1968). Unfortunately like most of the Haliday Collection (O'Connor & Nash, 1982), the only data on the specimen consists of a green label stating "Ireland" and a white label with "Haliday 20.2.'82". The latter is the Museum's registration number. Haliday lived from 1806-1870 but it is probable that the specimen was collected before 1850.

M. dettmeri is widespread and common in Britain. The larvae are internal stem-borers, pupating in the stem. The host plants are yarrow *Achillea millefolium* L., mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* L., common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* L., greater knapweed *C. scabiosa* L., hawkweed *Hieracium umbellatum* L. and common ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* L. *D. conjungens* is known to parasitize *M. dettmeri* (Quinlan, *op. cit.*). Since the latter's host plants are widely distributed in Ireland (Sannell & Synnott, 1987), both species are probably common Irish insects.

The specimens have been presented to the National Museum of Ireland.

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Is the Large Ear *Amphipoea lucens* (Freyer) (Lep.: Noctuidae) resident in south-east England?

On 9 August 1986, Mr A. Pearson boxed a noctuid he found resting on a light aboard the Hook of Holland to Harwich ferry, which had just docked at the Essex port, following an overnight crossing. Upon dissection I found this to be *A. lucens*, and at the time thought it may have been an example originating from stock resident along the coast of Holland, which had then hitched a lift on the ship. The species was hesitantly added to the Essex list as a Vagrant/Introduction.

Then, on 31 August 1997, Mr I. C. Rose at Mistley (14 kilometres to the west of Harwich) took an *Amphipoea* specimen, which he thought might be *A. fucosa* Freyer, but which proved to be a second *A. lucens*. I would urge recorders in East Anglia and south-east England to dissect any examples of *Amphipoea* adults which are found away from known *A. fucosa* and *A. oculea* L. colonies to help clarify its status in the area.—BRIAN GOODEY, 298 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 4ET.

Cypress Carpet *Thera cupressata* Geyer (Lep.: Geometridae) new to Devon

A single specimen of *Thera cupressata* was taken in the garden of Devon Moth Group member P. Franghiadi at Dawlish on 23 November 1999; the identity of the voucher specimen being verified by myself. This species was first discovered in Britain in the Swanage area of Dorset and it has since spread eastwards into Hampshire. The moth was in good condition and, in providing the first record of the species for Devon, its presence suggests that a westwards range expansion has also taken place.—ROY MCCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.